L4 Aesthetic/Visual Resources Report Overview

Presentation to Land Use, Land Management, and Aesthetics Work Group

Oroville Facilities Relicensing

FERC Project No. 2100

Organization of Report

Chapter 1 - Introduction

- Section 1.1 Background Information
- Section 1.2 Description of Facilities
- Section 1.3 Discussion of Current Operating Constraints

Chapter 2 - Need for Study

Chapter 3 - Study Objectives

- Describe and document the aesthetic/visual environment of the study area and the Project
- Evaluate the effects that Project facilities and operations have on the aesthetic/visual environment
- Identify relevant aesthetic/visual policies, elements, standards, and guidelines, and evaluate the Project's consistency with them

Chapter 4 – Methodology

- Section 4.1 Methodology for how the existing conditions inventory was conducted
- Section 4.2 Methodology for how Project facilities and operations effect the aesthetic/visual environment

Chapter 5 - Existing Environment

- Section 5.1 – Characteristics of the Project region
- Section 5.2 – Characteristics of the study area
- Section 5.3 – Policies, regulations, guidelines, and standards related to aesthetic/visual resources (USFS, BLM, CalTrans, and Butte County)

Chapter 6 - Evaluation of the Effects of the Project on the Aesthetic/Visual Environment

- **Chapter 6 Evaluates**:
  - the general effects of Project facilities
  - the general effects of Project operations
  - the effects of Project facilities and operations on KOPs

Chapter 6 - Evaluation of Effects of Project

- Sections 6.1-6.4 evaluate the effects of Project facilities and operations on four geographic parts of Project
  - Lake Oroville
  - Thermalito Diversion Pool and Forebay
  - Thermalito Afterbay
  - Low Flow Channel and OWA

Chapter 6 - Evaluation of Effects of Project

- Section 6.1 focuses on Lake Oroville
  - Discusses general visibility of Project facilities and their effects on the aesthetic/visual environment and specific effects on KOPs
  - Discusses Project operations and effects on the aesthetic/visual environment and specific effects on KOPs
    - Background operational information (historic monthly elevations and exceedance data for elevations

Chapter 6 - Evaluation of Effects of Project

- Section 6.1 (continued)
  - Evaluation of 3 representative elevations
    - 900 ft.
    - 830 ft.
    - 710 ft.
  - Includes photographs, exceedance data, and description of effects of each elevation

Bidwell Bar Bridge (Highway 162)

Pool elevation = 900 ft.

Pool elevation = 830 ft.

Pool elevation = 710 ft.

Chapter 6 - Evaluation of Effects of Project

- Section 6.1 also includes survey results related to reservoir elevation at Lake Oroville

- Sections 6.2 through 6.4 discuss the effects of Project facilities and operations on the Thermalito Diversion pool – Forebay, the Thermalito Afterbay, and the Low Flow Channel and OWA

Chapter 6 - Evaluation of Effects of Project

- Section 6.5 discusses the consistency of the Project with USFS, BLM, CalTrans and Butte Co. policies, regulations, guidelines and standards

Chapter 6 - Evaluation of Effects of Project

- Appendix A is a detailed description of the aesthetic/visual environment of each KOP
- Appendix B includes evaluation forms for determining the effects of Project facilities and operations on the aesthetic/visual environment of each KOP

Chapter 6 - Evaluation of Effects of Project

- Next steps
  - Please review the L4 Aesthetic/Visual Resources Report and give us your comments by the August LUWG meeting.
  - Your input from the L4 Report will be valuable for the existing conditions section of the PDEA and for evaluating the effects of the alternatives on the aesthetic/visual environment